

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 23, 2006. Claims 62 through 71 are in the application, of which Claims 62 and 68 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action repeated an earlier requirement for restriction, and additionally made it "final", although it was made final for reasons that are somewhat different from those originally articulated. Applicants continue to traverse the restriction requirement, for the reasons of record, and believe that it was entered improvidently. Nevertheless, for the sake of advancing prosecution, all claims herein have been cancelled, and replaced with original Claims 47 to 52, which have been renumbered as Claims 62 to 67. These claims had been cancelled from grandparent Application Serial No. 09/878,946, in an amendment dated May 11, 2004, for the purpose of advancing the grandparent application to an earlier allowance. Accordingly, examination of these claims in the instant application is seen to be proper.

Claims 68 to 71 have also been added.

In the grandparent application, unamended Claims 47 to 50 were rejected in an Office Action dated May 24, 2002, primarily over U.S. Patent 6,099,101 (Maurelli) in view of U.S. Patent 5,841,448 (Moriyama) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,735,167 (Puukangas).¹ It is not believed that those rejections are sustainable, since the claims

^{1/} Later in prosecution of the grandparent application, other rejections were entered against Claims 47 to 50, but those other rejections were entered against amended forms of the claims. Those rejections are therefore not addressed herein, for the reason that the claims as now presented correspond to the original, unamended form, and not to the later amended form.

herein specify bi-directional communication with receiving means and information communication means of a solid semiconductor element, whereas the Office Action specifically conceded that Maurelli does not disclose a solid semiconductor element. As a consequence, since Maurelli does not disclose a solid semiconductor element, it could not possibly disclose bi-directional communication with receiving means and an information communicating means of the solid semiconductor element.

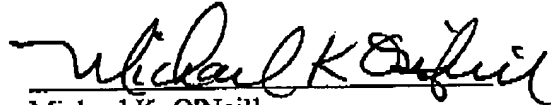
It is further Applicants' understanding that none of the other cited references disclose such a bi-directional communication with receiving means and information communication means of a solid semiconductor element. Allowance of Claims 62 to 67 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 68 to 71 refer to individual and independent setting of respective response conditions for each of multiple ink tanks. The cited art is not seen by Applicants to disclose such arrangement. Allowance of Claims 68 to 71 is therefore respectfully requested.

Turning to a formal matter involving the drawings, the summary of the instant Office Action includes a check mark indicating that the drawings have been objected to. However, the undersigned can not find any explanation of such an objection anywhere in the Office Action, and consequently believes that this check mark was made inadvertently. Accordingly, unless the objection is repeated and an explanation therefor given, Applicants believe that the as-filed drawings are acceptable, and will take no action with respect to correction.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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